

PRELIMINARY AMENDMENT
U.S. Application No. 09/315,068

REMARKS

The amendment herein to claim 1 is submitted in view of telephone discussions between Applicants' undersigned representative and the Examiner, taking into account the agreements reached and suggestions made by the Examiner. Applicants submit that the amendments do not narrow the scope of the claims. This Amendment adds new claim 7.

Entry and consideration of this Amendment are respectfully requested.

Respectfully submitted,



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APPENDIX

Version With Markings To Show Changes Made

IN THE CLAIMS:

The claims are amended as follows:

1. (Amended) A semiconductor laser comprising an active region which includes at least a quantum well layer and upper and lower optical waveguide layers on opposite sides of the ~~at least a quantum well layer, the active region being formed [and is]~~ of $\text{In}_x\text{Ga}_{1-x}\text{As}_y\text{P}_{1-y}$ ($0 \leq x \leq 1$, $0 \leq y \leq 1$), and upper and lower cladding layers formed of AlGaAs on opposite sides of the active region, wherein the improvement comprises that

at least one of the optical waveguide layers is not smaller than $0.25\mu\text{m}$ in thickness, and

a part of the upper cladding layer on the upper optical waveguide layer is selectively removed up to the interface of the upper cladding layer and the upper optical waveguide layer.

New claim 7 is added.